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# CDF NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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### **Resources Secretary Names Acting CDF Director**

#### ***Ruben Grijalva to Lead California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection***

**Sacramento** - Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman today announced that Ruben Grijalva (pronounced gri-HALL-va) will become acting director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection effective Jan.2. Grijalva, the state fire marshal, replaces Dale Geldert who retires Dec. 30. Grijalva has served as fire marshal, since August 2004. He will serve in a dual capacity until a permanent CDF director is named.

"I can't think of anyone better qualified than Ruben Grijalva to hold this position. Californians will gain great benefit from the more than 32 years that Ruben has dedicated to public safety," said Chrisman. "We appreciate his tireless dedication and selfless commitment to public service."

As fire marshal, since his appointment by Governor Schwarzenegger, Grijalva has worked to shape fire policy for the administration. As the acting head of CDF, Grijalva will oversee 5,500 full-time and seasonal employees. CDF is dedicated to the fire protection and stewardship of more than 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands. In addition, the department provides various emergency services in 36 of the State's 58 counties via contracts with local governments. CDF firefighters, fire engines, and aircraft respond to an average of more than 5,700 wildland fires each year. Those fires burn nearly 170,000 acres annually.

"I am grateful to Secretary Chrisman for this tremendous opportunity," Grijalva said. "I look forward to guiding CDF forward on a course of action that will protect the people, property and resources of the state." Prior to becoming State Fire Marshal, Grijalva worked for the city of Palo Alto beginning in 1990, and served as that city's Fire Chief for 10 years beginning in 1994. Grijalva worked for the City of Sunnyvale's Department of Public Safety for 16 years working in both police and fire capacities before accepting the Palo Alto position.

Chief Grijalva has expertise in criminal justice administration and the development of fire prevention and hazardous materials regulations. He has extensive experience with a wide range of negotiations that include; legislative deliberations, labor negotiations and code development. In 1988, he was the primary hostage negotiator during an incident at ESL Company in Sunnyvale where he successfully negotiated the surrender of the largest mass murderer in Santa Clara County history. Chief Grijalva currently chairs the State Board of Fire Services, is an ex-officio member of the California Film Commission, serves on Governor Schwarzenegger's Hydrogen Highway Network Senior Review Committee, and is on the Board of Directors of FIRESCOPE.

A biography and high resolution photos of Chief Grijalva can be found at:

[http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/about\\_executivebios.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/about_executivebios.php)